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I.

EFFECTS OF PHOSPHORUS AND OF  
HEAT ON THE ANIMAL BODY.

THE only *novelty* that we know of at present likely to interest our readers, is the appearance on the stage of a M. Chabert, who professes to eat arsenic and drink prussic acid, and with the wonders of whose exploits some of the newspapers have lately been teeming.

The general impression of those who have seen Chabert is in his favor, in so far as regards the fact of his swallowing certain substances which, on the generality of mankind, act as poisons. At his last exhibition, for instance, he swallowed twenty-two grains of phosphorus; and on a former occasion is said to have taken two scruples. The phosphorus was brought by Sir G. Farrant, and Chabert rapidly bit off some pieces, amounting to the quantity above mentioned. These were put into a spoon; and while he kept his hands behind him, to prevent the idea of any undue interference on his part, they were apparently, and we believe really, taken down his throat. He held the head back, with the mouth open, and the tongue slightly protruded, performing the act of deglutition very rapidly, so as to avoid allowing the phosphorus to remain in contact with the tongue. This is unquestionably an extraordinary feat, and shows a power of

resisting the effects of such doses of this substance as would probably destroy most individuals: still there is nothing in it which appears to us absolutely marvellous, as phosphorus, in smaller quantity, has frequently been taken with impunity.

Mentz, a German physician, recommended phosphorus, in 1751, as a powerful stimulant, and published some cases illustrative of its efficacy; and on his authority, it has since been occasionally used in Germany.—In France, Alphonse Leroy experimented with it on his own person, and took three grains in treacle. This caused great uneasiness, which, however, was relieved by copious draughts of cold water; and he affirms that next day his muscular strength was considerably increased. He relates the case of a young man who recovered from the advanced stage of typhous fever under the use of phosphorus, and of an old man who was restored by it from a state of extreme debility.—Dr. Conradi also asserts that he has known it succeed when other stimulants had failed. All the experiments, however, did not terminate so favorably.—Weikard was consulted by a Jew, who had lost his speech and the use of his limbs, in consequence of an apoplectic seizure. Two grains of phosphorus were administered to him, rubbed up in a conserve: next day three grains were given in some honey; and Weikard

informs us that it was his intention to have increased the dose still farther next day, but that in the meantime the unfortunate Jew was taken ill, and died on the fourth day in great agony.—In our number for July 11th will also be found the case of a chemist at Biel, who was poisoned by three grains.—Brera likewise tried it in a case of paralysis. He gave two grains dissolved in mucilage of gum arabic, and directed it to be taken in divided doses, so that each should contain half a grain of phosphorus. His patient appeared to be better after the first dose, but scarcely had she taken the last, before she was seized with burning pain in the stomach, and died in twenty-four hours.—Alibert tried a series of experiments with this substance, principally in epilepsy. The method he adopted was to incorporate a grain in an ounce of mucilage, and to give it in the course of twenty-four hours. The general result was, that it impaired digestion, without curing the disease for which it was given.—The latest publication on this subject, so far as we know, is that of M. Lobstein, which appeared in 1815; and the opinion he expresses with regard to the medicinal powers of phosphorus is so favorable, that we cannot but regret that it is not corroborated by others. He used it chiefly in fever, and states that the pulse improves, and delirium diminishes very speedily, under its exhibition. He also mentions that the evacuations become luminous in the dark, when it is given in sufficient quantities.—Hufeland says that a small portion of phosphorus, if allowed to come into contact with the stomach, is apt to excite inflammation, but

speaks favorably of it as a stimulant, in doses of about one grain in the day, when carefully mixed with mucilage by long-continued trituration.—To return to M. Chabert:—It appears that the internal exhibition of phosphorus in small doses has often been practised; and that one individual (Leroy) took so much as three grains. But it is the result of general experience, that the system may become reconciled to large doses of the most powerful agents, provided they are very gradually and cautiously increased;—witness opium. Half a grain is the usual dose of lunar caustic, but we have known an individual take sixty grains in the course of twenty-four hours, in five-grain pills,—a feat scarcely less wonderful than that of Chabert.

As to arsenic and prussic acid, it will be time enough to inquire about them when it appears that he has actually taken them. At present his ability to do so with impunity rests on his own authority. With regard to holding his head for a short time in the fumes of arsenic, it is of very little importance even if he really did it. Nor can we avoid hinting, that throwing sulphuric acid upon a chafing dish, so as to raise sulphurous acid vapors, and thus half choke those who came near, savored very much of trickery, as did several other parts of his conduct. Neither do we attach much importance to the feat of swallowing oil at 310 degrees. The effect of any body, at a high temperature, in producing a sense of heat, depends very much on the rapidity with which it parts with caloric; in other words, on whether it be a good or bad conduct-

or. Thus, it might have been observed, that though Chabert suffered the oil to be put into his mouth, he avoided letting the spoon even touch his tongue, because the metal, though it could not be hotter than the oil which it contained, parted with its heat much more rapidly, and would thus have burnt him.

M. Chabert is represented in the *Literary Gazette* as possessing three antidotes—one, a preservative against vegetable, another against animal, and a third against mineral poisons; nay, he even holds out that he has an antidote to hydrophobia, and is able to save men "from every species of poison."

If he really possess such important secrets, the Editor of the *Literary Gazette* thinks "that they ought to be ascertained, and he largely rewarded as a public benefactor." It is only the notice which has been taken of these performances in so respectable a publication which induces us to advert to them at all; and we agree that the secret of his antidotes ought to be purchased, "if he really possess such;" but we do not believe that he does. That the same thing should prove an antidote to all the poisons taken from one kingdom—to arsenic, for example, and corrosive sublimate, and verdigris, and sulphuric acid, —agents having nothing in common in their chemical composition, or in their action on the animal body—is too monstrous an improbability for any intelligent person to credit. And even if it should be found that Chabert can really take these poisons with impunity, which we do not imagine, we should still hold it more probable that he had gradually ac-

customed himself to them than that he possessed any one general antidote. We may mention, too, that Chabert retired to change his dress after he had taken the phosphorus and oil, and remained long enough absent to have vomited these substances, if he was desirous of so doing, and that he took no poison after he had been in the oven. We suggest this merely as a possibility, but if so it would deprive the experiment of much of its anomaly, as it is expressly stated by Lobstein that the effects of a dose of phosphorus are scarcely ever perceptible in less than four hours. The subject, however, is worthy of some attention: but then the investigation would require to be carried on by much cooler heads than those who have already volunteered their testimony in Chabert's favor, and who seem inclined to swallow all his assertions with as much avidity as they did his beef-steak. And this brings us to the last part of the performance, which, though it excited the greatest admiration on the part of some of the spectators, was in reality the least wonderful of the whole. An oven was heated, into which Chabert entered in a flannel dress and thick-soled shoes, being provided with a sort of funnel, communicating with the external air, through which he breathed. So far from having any means of guarding against the effects of the heat, he was dreadfully oppressed, and at the end of eight minutes and a half burst out panting and exhausted, being evidently quite unable to bear it a moment longer. His breathing was performed very rapid, the expirations being performed forcibly and with much puffing. What the ex-

act heat of the oven was, we are unable to say, as no thermometer was placed in it at the time Chabert entered ; but shortly after he came out, one which was placed in it (much against his inclination) only rose to about 180 degrees !

The heat of the oven in this case, therefore, was probably not greater than that of the rooms in which Sir Charles Blagden, Sir Joseph Banks, and others, remained for a considerable time without any communication with the external air, and with comparatively little inconvenience. According to M. Tillet, girls who had been accustomed to attend an oven, bore for ten minutes a temperature equal to 280 degrees Fahrenheit ; and a Spaniard, named Martinez, within this twelvemonth, used to exhibit at the Tivoli, in Paris, who remained in an oven, at the temperature just mentioned, long enough to have a fowl roasted beside him, and to eat it.

The most scientific experiments of this kind, and consequently the most interesting, are detailed by Dr., afterwards Sir C. Blagden, in the sixty-fifth volume of the Philosophical Transactions. As these may not be within the reach of all our readers, we subjoin some extracts.

“ Soon after our arrival, a thermometer in the room rose above the boiling point : this heat we all bore perfectly well, and without any sensible alteration in the temperature of our bodies. Many repeated trials, in successively higher degrees of heat, gave still more remarkable proofs of resisting power. The last of these experiments was made about eight o'clock in the evening, when the heat was at the greatest : a very

large thermometer, placed at a distance from the door of the room, but nearer to the wall than to the cockle, and defended from the immediate action of the cockle by a piece of paper hung before it, rose one or two degrees above 260. Another thermometer, which had been suspended very near the door, stood some degrees above 240. At this time I went into the room, with the addition to my common clothes of a pair of thick worsted stockings drawn over my shoes, and reaching some way above my knees. I also put on a pair of gloves, and held a cloth constantly between my face and the cockle. All these precautions were necessary to guard against the scorching of the red-hot iron. I remained eight minutes in this situation, frequently walking about to all the different parts of the room, but standing most of the time in the coolest spot, near the lowest thermometer. The air felt very hot, but still by no means to such a degree as to give pain ; on the contrary, I had no doubt of being able to support a much greater heat ; and all the gentlemen present, who went into the room, were of the same opinion. I sweated, but not very profusely. For seven minutes my breathing continued perfectly good ; but after that time I began to feel an oppression in my lungs, attended with a sense of anxiety, which gradually increased for the space of a minute. I thought it most prudent to put an end to the experiment, and immediately left the room. My pulse, counted as soon as I came into the cool air, for the uneasy feeling rendered me incapable of examining it in the room, was found to beat at the

rate of 144 pulsations in a minute. A chief object of this day's experiments was to ascertain the real effects of our clothes in enabling us to bear such high degrees of heat. With this view I took off my coat, waistcoat, and shirt; and in that situation went into the room as soon as the thermometer had risen above the boiling point, with the precaution of holding a piece of cloth constantly between my body and the cockle, as the scorching was otherwise intolerable. The first impression of the heated air on my naked body was much more disagreeable than I had ever felt it through my clothes, but in five or six minutes a profuse sweat broke out, which gave me instant relief, and took off all extraordinary uneasiness. At the end of twelve minutes, when the thermometer had risen almost to 220 deg. I left the room very much fatigued, but no otherwise disordered, my pulse being 136 in the minute. Several of the gentlemen present, as well as myself, went into the room without our shirts many times afterwards, when the thermometer had reached almost to 260 deg., and found we could bear the heat very well, though the first sensation was always more disagreeable than with our clothes. To prove that there was no fallacy in the degree of heat shown by the thermometer, but that the air which we breathed was capable of producing all the well-known effects of such heat on inanimate matter, we put some eggs and a beef-steak into a pan or tin frame: in about 20 minutes the eggs were taken out roasted quite hard, and in 47 minutes the steak was not only dressed, but almost dry.

Another beef-steak was rather over done in 33 minutes. In the evening, when the heat was still greater, we laid a third beef-steak in the same place: and as it was now observed that the effect of the heated air was much increased by putting it in motion, we blew upon the steak with a pair of bellows, which produced a visible change on its surface, and seemed to hasten the dressing: the greatest part of it was found pretty well done in 13 minutes.

"The same person, who felt no inconvenience from air heated to 211, could not bear quicksilver at 120, and could just bear rectified spirit at 130; that is, quicksilver heated to 120 deg. furnished, in a given time, more heat for the living powers to destroy than spirits heated to 130 deg. or air at 211 deg."

Dr. Dobson and several others went into the sweating-room of the hospital at Liverpool, when it was heated to 224, without inconvenience.

The above remarks from the editorial department of the London Medical Gazette, were elicited by some experiments which were described in our Journal for Sept. 8.

## II.

### *Observations on the Nature, Cause and Treatment of Hay Asthma.*

(Concluded from p. 513.)

REGARDING spasm as the proximate cause of the disease, I exhibited, in the first cases which came under my notice, the powder of ipecacuan and the tartrate of antimony, (sometimes in combination with camphor and extract of hyoscyamus), in such doses as to create a constant nausea; which, by its antispasmodic effect, never failed

to afford considerable relief. Nausea, however, is too unpleasant and depressing a sensation to be long endured; and in some idiosyncrasies it cannot be in the least produced without leading to constant vomiting, or efforts to vomit, which only serve to augment the headach and general distress. Finding that nauseating medicines were but of limited application, I made trial of the hydrocyanic acid, in doses of half a drop, or a drop, every two or three hours; giving, in the intervals, from three to five grains of the carbonate of ammonia, with a quarter or half a grain of powder of ipecacuan. This plan invariably alleviated the symptoms; and when they were not exceedingly violent, removed them entirely. Sometimes I administered the carbonate of ammonia, with ipecacuan, alone, and certainly never without greatly facilitating the difficulty of breathing.

No medicine, however, which was had recourse to, was of such utility, and so speedily and effectually removed the paroxysms, as the ethereal tincture of the *Lobelia inflata*. It was given in doses of one drachm, repeated every three or four hours. The obstructed respiration was always rendered more free by the first dose, and after the second it became perfectly easy and natural; and to this soon followed the disappearance of all the other symptoms.

During the continuance of the asthma, the patient should confine himself to the house as much as possible; and should eat biscuit, and the more digestible kinds of food. He should sedulously abstain from all spirituous and fermented liquors, and use only coffee for drink. He should also abstain from fresh vegetables and fruit of

every description; because these, by readily entering into the acetous fermentation, generate within the stomach an abundance of gaseous matter, whereby this organ becomes distended, and respiration of course greatly impeded.

Care should also be taken to obtain a daily and free evacuation of the bowels, by the exhibition of one or two drachms of the sulphate of magnesia every morning. Purg-ing is improper. Diuretics, likewise, should be given, in order to preserve a plentiful secretion from the kidneys; for I have often noticed that whenever the urinary discharge was copious, the fits were generally less severe than when this discharge was scanty.

As soon as the inflammation of the eyes, and irritability of the mucous lining of the nostrils supervenes, it should be subdued by keeping a piece of fine linen, wetted with an evaporating lotion, constantly applied to the forehead and across the nose. If this measure be not persevered in, the bronchiæ will become affected by the spreading of the morbid action, and the asthmatic symptoms will soon make their appearance. But if the ophthalmia and irritable state of the schneiderian membrane be timely reduced, the paroxysm will be postponed, and often entirely averted; and if it should come on, it will be not only milder, but shorter in its duration.

Opium I found to be decidedly injurious. It increased the fever, headach, wheezing, and suffocating tightness across the chest. Vegetable acids were given, but without success; and blisters and tartar emetic ointment were of no utility; nor was any material diminution of the symptoms ever observed to succeed the inhalation of steam, or

the abstraction of blood by leeches, which were occasionally applied to the chest.

The warm bath was not of the least service, but immersion of the feet in hot water generally proved beneficial. Hay asthma, like every other variety of asthma, depends on a state of general or local debility ; and, as far as my experience extends, its best prophylactic is the cold shower bath, which, by its tonic properties, removes that weak and irritable condition which forms the foundation of the disease. This preventive, where it has received a fair trial, has succeeded most completely. It should be commenced in about six or eight weeks previous to the expected recurrence of the complaint ; and employed every morning, without intermission, until the hay is being gathered in. Its effects are speedy and most agreeable. If the patient feel any obstruction in the nostrils, heaviness of the head, tenderness of the eyes, tingling in the throat, or impediment of respiration, which he not unfrequently does when he first awakes in the morning, he no sooner uses the cold shower bath than all these threatening symptoms disappear, and he feels light, vigorous and active, and can breathe with the most perfect ease and freedom.

During the employment of the bath, the alvine canal should be gently and regularly acted on by means of saline aperients ; and if any thoracic uneasiness be experienced during the day, a dose of the ethereal tincture of the lobelia inflata must immediately be had recourse to.

If the cough continue after the other symptoms have terminated, it is best relieved by opiates, by stimulating embrocations rubbed

on the chest and along the spine, and by change of air.

From what I have witnessed, then, I am disposed to conclude that the cold shower bath, used in the manner and with the precautions I have laid down, will prevent the access of hay asthma ; and that the asthmatic fit will at all times yield either to the hydrocyanic acid, or to the ethereal tincture of the lobelia inflata.—*lb.*

### III.

#### DISEASES RESEMBLING INFLAMMATION.

##### *Remarks on a Peculiar Class of Diseases resembling Inflammation.*

By Mr. GEORGE NEWSTEAD.

A NUMBER of cases have occurred in my practice\* during the last four years, which, with all the external characters of active inflammation, have not been relieved by bleeding, and, in fact, could not bear it to any great extent. The form chiefly assumed by the disease, when I first observed it, was that of pleuritis. Cold chills or shivering, uneasiness in the back and limbs, and frequently vomiting, were succeeded by very acute pain in the side. The tongue had the appearance exhibited in typhus mitior ; the pulse was sometimes accelerated, but very often was not disturbed in the beginning ; the secretion of urine was remarkably scanty, very high colored, and deposited a thick sediment. It sometimes terminated in three or four days with profuse sweats, and sometimes in a week or ten days by expectoration, tinged often with blood. The pain was so urgent, and the breathing so obstructed, that I did not

\* At Howden, Yorkshire.



hesitate to use the lancet ; but the first bleeding generally put me on my guard. I was astonished at the small quantity which commonly flowed before syncope was produced, and also at the slight relief of pain, even where larger abstractions could be borne. Cases like peritonitis began to occur, and I then found that whether the patient complained of the chest or abdomen, the pain was not confined to one part. On examining those complaining of the chest, there was great tenderness to the *touch* there (a circumstance I never remarked in inflammation of the lungs or pleura), and not only there, but on the abdomen, and very often down the back; and those who said the pain was in the abdomen were affected, in like manner, by pressure on the chest and back, as well as the belly. In some, even the arms and thighs were affected; and whatever part was touched, they shrunk like the subject of acute rheumatism on handling an inflamed joint. This diffused pain on pressure, and the diminished secretion of urine, I fixed upon as the characteristic symptoms of the disease. Although the region of the kidney was usually pointed out as the seat of the most acute pain in the abdominal disease, and the secretion of urine was so much disordered, there was not that frequency of making water, and pain in voiding small quantities, which mark nephritis. The state of the bowels was various;—frequently diarrhoea came on with green stools, or a discharge of bloody mucus; but, as calomel was freely given, I attributed these symptoms to its use. One young man, however, before any medicine was given, had frequent

discharges from the bowels of a thin bloody serum, without tenesmus, and totally different from anything dysenteric. I observed some, where the chest was chiefly complained of, spit up the same kind of serum, like bloody water. The stomach was often irritable throughout the abdominal disorder, and a green fluid was occasionally discharged. I felt an awful responsibility at first, when I dared to treat this complaint without, or with very little, depletion; for patients themselves, identifying what they felt with what they had heard of inflammation, would ask to be bled, but I was alarmed by the exhaustion I had seen follow, and I never, except in two cases, ventured on more than one bleeding, trusting afterwards to leeches, a dozen at a time. My reliance was on opium and calomel, or mercurial frictions. I was partly encouraged to withhold the lancet by the state of the pulse, which was often not above 80, and natural to the feel, when the chest, back and abdomen could not be touched without agony, and even the weight of the bed-clothes was irksome; for, although I am aware that fatal inflammation of the bowels may exist without an accelerated pulse, I fancy that commonly it is when it proceeds from some mechanical obstruction, and that in pure enteritis or peritonitis there must be a quick pulse, though the feel may be variable. The pulse did not often continue in this state,—it generally got to be 100 or upwards after two or three days, when the febrile disorder, which seemed to modify and give a peculiar character to the inflammatory symptoms, had time to develop itself. My cautious practice



has been successful. Out of a number of persons afflicted in this way, I cannot say how many, but I can readily bring forty to my memory, three died. Two of these had been freely bled, and the third was a woman seventy-eight years of age. Within the last month I have treated two cases successfully, even without leeches. I will give you a daily report of one of them.

Jane Cotham, æt. 61. July 7, 1829.—Attacked suddenly, after tea this afternoon, with excruciating pain all over the abdomen, and vomiting.—Eight o'clock, P. M. Complains of great pain in the abdomen, which is very much increased on pressure,—does not mention pain elsewhere; but, on examination, the whole of the left side of the chest, as high as the axilla, and the back, are as tender to the touch as the abdomen. Pain came on suddenly, but she has felt chilly and not very well all day,—has been uneasy and stiff in her back and limbs two or three days,—has never been subject to any spasmodic affection. Pulse 72, with a sinking feel; tongue pretty natural; bowels moved both yesterday and to-day. Warm bath; two grains of opium immediately.

Pulv. Ipecac. c. gr. x. Hydrarg. Submur. gr. ij. cum dosi mist salin. 4tis horis postea. Ol. Ricini 3j. primo mane. Rub the parts affected, as much as can be borne, with camphorated oil.

July 8th, 10 o'clock, A. M.—Is easier. The pain on pressure continues, however, particularly acute on the left side of the chest, and the right side of the abdomen; cannot take a full inspiration; has no cough; urine said to be very

little in quantity; no stool; has not yet taken the oil; pulse 72, without any sinking; tongue furred. Ordered to take the oil and a black draught every four hours, until the bowels are opened.—Eight o'clock, P. M. Opening medicine has not operated; does not complain much when she is still, but the whole of the abdomen is exquisitely tender to the touch; also both sides of the chest, as high as the armpit: can bear pressure now on the back; pulse 65; tongue a little moister; urine in very small quantity, but nothing particular in its appearance; has vomited after taking an opening draught.

July 9th.—Has been purged freely; does not complain of pain; can bear pressure tolerably well on the abdomen, excepting the right side, which is still tender; has a little tenderness on the right side of the chest, but shrinks from the slightest touch on the left side. Pulse 86; tongue loaded with a moist fur in the middle; evidently febrile action: has continued the calomel and comp. powder of ipecac.

July 10th.—Is easier; has slept well; bears pressure on the abdomen without pain, but it feels hard, and as if the muscles were spasmodically contracted; some soreness to the touch all over the chest. Pulse 80; gentle diaphoresis; urine exceedingly scanty, depositing a thick sediment; tongue rather improving, dry and foul in the middle; bowels open; has vomited repeatedly.

July 11th.—Severe gripings; constant efforts to stool, but evacuates only small quantities of very bloody mucus; has passed, however, during the night, a large quantity of dark green feculent

matter, mixed with scybalæ ; no pain on pressing the abdomen ; a little still on touching the left side of the chest.

Chalk mixture with Tinct. Opii ; three grains of Opium for a suppository.

July 12th.—The griping and tenesmus abated after a dose or two of the mixture ; returned this morning with some discharge of blood : used the suppository, and has been quite easy since ; no pain on pressure ; gums swelled and tender. Pulse 100 ; urine still very scanty.

Continue chalk mixture. To take 3 ss. Ol. Ricini in the morning.

July 13th.—Has had an easy night ; castor oil has produced three good motions ; mouth very sore ; pulse 86 ; tongue beginning to clean ; left off taking medicine.

July 19th.—Has been quite free from pain ; bowels regular ; fast regaining her former health.

Two puerperal women have been severely attacked by the disease. One had two dozen leeches, and the other only one dozen very ineffective ones. Calomel and opium were given, and the bowels were opened once or twice with ol. ricini, combined with ol. terebinth. 3ij. Both recovered.—*Med. Chir. Review.*

### SKETCHES OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

#### MEDICAL NOMENCLATURE.

THE difficulty of acquiring a familiarity with the technical names of parts, is, if not the greatest, certainly the most provoking obstacle experienced at the outset by the student of anatomy. We recollect well the strong though ludicrous expression of dismay, with which one of our fellow-students assured us that he had spent two whole months in acquiring a perfect acquaintance with the names of the muscles, which he forgot again at the end of three weeks. We availed ourselves of his experience, and declined undertaking so useless a labor ; but we doubt not there are many others who have had reason to regret an equal sacrifice of their time. He must needs possess a good memory, who can, without frequent reviewal of his text books, keep in his mind the mighty host of names which they contain ; and one

who neither recurs to these, nor is led to engage in practical anatomical researches, will be likely, at the end of a few years, to find that a large proportion have escaped his memory entirely. A late writer in one of the foreign Reviews (the Glasgow Journal), has taken up this subject very seriously. He considers the whole system of anatomical names to be a relic of barbarism, and utterly unworthy to be retained at this period of improvement and civilization. He proposes an entire reformation of this system, not only in regard to the muscles, but also to the bones, the vessels and the nerves. For the plan which he proposes as a substitute, as it is given at great length and with considerable formality, we will not attempt to do it justice. The great principle, however, is to make the different regions of the body the ground of a primary division, and to

distinguish the individual muscles, nerves, &c., in each region, by a simple numerical classification. The names of the regions themselves are to be the most simple and familiar, and thus this formidable array of *technicals*, which now presents so serious an impediment at the very portal of science, is at once to be abandoned.

The plan thus proposed is certainly ingenious, but we should doubt its claim to any higher praise. The defects of the present system, though considerable, are by no means such as to warrant this sweeping reformation. We object, moreover, to the principle on which this change is proposed. Because the names now applied are in many instances inappropriate, and express very awkwardly the qualities of the objects they indicate, it cannot follow that it would be better to reject the aid of analogy altogether, and to make the connection between objects and their names entirely arbitrary. The general idea has been that numbers must be fixed in the memory, by associating them with objects; the plan of remembering objects by numbering them, seems to be a retrograde step in the science of mnemonics.

The great principles of association of which anatomists have agreed to avail themselves in designating the various parts, are derived from three circumstances,—their form, their situation, and their use. The bones, which form, as it were, the groundwork of the classification, and which present a well-defined, prominent and permanent outline, are with

great propriety named from their forms; and the names which designate these are, for the most part, sufficiently expressive and appropriate. The analogies on which they are founded are sometimes fanciful, and some of the terms employed certainly deficient in euphony; but these faults are not of frequent occurrence, and certainly will not justify a condemnation of all. Neither do the names of the bloodvessels or nerves seem open to any very serious objection. The former have their titles mostly from their situations; and for describing these, their relation to the bones in the extremities, and to prominent parts in the great cavities, afford an obvious facility. The nerves are, for the most part, named on the same plan; but as many of these have evident and peculiar uses, their designations are very properly made to express these uses. The additional numerical names of the first twelve pairs of nerves, which would, on the system above mentioned, form the best part of the classification, seem to us rather the most indifferent. Expressing a gradation which does not exist in the parts themselves, they mislead rather than instruct us. Their best claim is to the title of a harmless superfluity.

We come now to the muscles,—parts confessedly difficult to remember by their present names, and presenting the fairest ground for improvement, in this respect, of any portion of the system. The great difficulty in regard to the nomenclature of the muscles seems to be, that it has no reference to any fixed and definite principle. Some are named

from their form, some from their situation, some from their uses, and many from circumstances wholly distinct from either. This variety of itself is calculated to perplex and embarrass ; and when to this is added the want of propriety in some, and the barbarous sound of others, this certainly seems the least attractive part of the catalogue. Now there is one circumstance common to all the muscles, which would seem to present an obvious ground for a uniform nomenclature. Every muscle serves, as its principal use, to connect together two parts, which parts are approximated by its contraction. The united names of these two parts, therefore, must furnish a name to the muscle, expressive at once of its situation and its use ; thus furnishing a double aid to the memory, while the only burden it imposes is that of a new association of terms, which are supposed to be already familiar.

That a nomenclature of the muscles, on this plan, would be an improvement in our system, is by no means a new idea. It is suggested, as is well known, in the *Elements of Anatomy* by Munro ; and a table of the muscles is there given in which a name is applied to each, formed on this principle. Some of these are, perhaps, unnecessarily complicated, and approach too nearly to the nature of description. These, however, are but few in number ; the rest are unexceptionable, and wherever they differ from the names in common use, are certainly much superior. A nomenclature of the muscles formed on this principle, if adopted gene-

rally in our elementary works of anatomy, would materially facilitate the progress of the student.

#### THE ABSORBENT SYSTEM OF SAILORS.

A PAPER in one of the late numbers of the *Medical Gazette* contains some interesting speculations with regard to the absorbent system, as modified in its functions among a particular class of persons. It is mentioned as a well known fact, that among sailors, complaints or accidents accompanied with effusion are cured with considerable difficulty. Bruises of the skin and integuments, attended with discoloration, heal very slowly ; the glands, when enlarged, are not disposed to return to their former state ; and dropsy is a frequent result of inflammatory action. It is also noticed with respect to this class of persons, that mercury requires a long time to produce its specific effect ; and the occasional occurrence of scurvy, even under a regulated diet, is another fact of the same class. These circumstances would seem to imply an imperfect action on the part of the absorbents, connected with the defective nutrition supplied by the articles of diet to which the maritime class are for the most part limited. This idea was confirmed by finding that in the blood drawn from two or three individuals, not suffering at the time from acute disease, the serum bore to the cruor a proportion of 7 to 2 ; the fibrin was deficient, and the taste of the whole saline and alkaline. It is noticed that the sailors when at sea do not bear bleeding well ; and that in the complaints to which they are subject,

unless acute inflammation is present, exercise and a generous diet answer much better.

#### RESPIRATION OF BIRDS.

MESSRS. ALLEN and PEPYS have lately instituted some experiments on this subject, by confining a pigeon in a glass vessel filled with the air employed, which was re-supplied from a gasometer as it became unfit to support life. In the first experiment, made with common air, oxygen was abstracted by the respiration, and an equal volume of carbonic acid substituted. In the second and third, made with pure oxygen, a similar portion of oxygen was removed, the place of which was in part supplied by carbonic acid, and in part by azote. In the fourth, a mixture of oxygen, hydrogen and azote was employed, (the oxygen in the same proportion as in common air,) and it was found that while the volume of the former gas remained undiminished, the mixture parted with its hydrogen, and received in return an equal volume of azote.

#### CASE OF BULIMIA, WITH DISSECTION.

A MAN aged 60, came under the care of M. Gaultier, affected, as was supposed, with diseased liver. He was very fat, his skin of a yellow tinge, and his belly prominent. His appetite was voracious, requiring three large meals a day to satisfy it. He died with symptoms of pulmonary consumption. When examined, the lungs were found to contain collections of matter. The stomach was large and very muscular. The structure of the liver was healthy. Not-

withstanding a minute examination, no trace of a gall-bladder could be found, or any circumstance which indicated its former existence. The duodenum adhered directly to the liver, and a very short canal leading from the intestine, ramified at once in the liver, without sending any branch in the usual direction of the ductus cysticus. It is not unlikely, as suggested by the author, that the rapid digestion and great appetite in this case, were owing to the bile constantly poured into the duodenum keeping up an excitement of this organ, and sympathetically influencing the stomach.

#### EMPHYEMA.

IN the last number of the Western Journal is an account of a case of this disease, successfully treated by operation. The patient, a youth of 19 or 20, had been attacked with pleurisy, which was succeeded by gradual enlargement of the left side, general debility and hectic. On examination the heart was found beating with considerable force on the right side, with general "œdema" of the left, which measured nearly twice as much as the former from spine to sternum, and had an indistinct fluctuation.

The incision was made between the sixth and seventh ribs, as nearly as possible to the latter. On puncturing the pleura a volume of pus issued, which continued to run for about forty minutes, when the patient became faint and the wound was dressed. The next day, a canula was introduced, and the pus allowed to discharge itself through it,

which it did for several weeks, after which the wound healed, and his health rapidly improved. The whole quantity of matter discharged, from first to last, was supposed to amount to about four gallons.

#### EFFECTS OF MORPHINE.

THE *Annali Universali di Medicina* contains an account of some experi-

ments on the effects of morphia on three persons in health, to whom it was administered in doses of one-eighth of a grain, and a grain. The effects were, a pain in the epigastric region, increased frequency of the pulse, dilatation of the pupils, and headach; and subsequently, sleep and diaphoresis. All these symptoms were increased with the dose of morphia taken.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1829.

It has been suggested to us by an obliging friend from the country, that in a recent number of the *Journal* a paragraph was so expressed as apparently to convey an idea prejudicial to the reputation of our brethren out of the city. If any one received this impression, it is proper we should say that such was not the intent of the paragraph, or the spirit in which it was written. The case was a *supposed* one, and supposed expressly and *solely* for the purpose of illustrating an argument:—nothing was further from our intention than to intimate anything unfavorable to the general or professional character, talents, or zeal, of the faculty in the country. On the other hand, about ninety out of every hundred of our subscribers are country practitioners, and it is to them we are indebted for a large proportion of all our communications; *we* therefore should be the last to depreciate their zeal or their ability.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity again to extend to our professional friends, in town and country,

an invitation to favor their brethren, through our pages, with the results of their studies, reflections and experience. The department of the *Journal* more strictly editorial, we endeavor to render as useful and interesting as our opportunities will allow; the reader will judge whether in this our duty is performed or neglected. He also must judge whether any remissness exists on *his* part, by the appearance of the first pages of the *Journal*, which are designed more particularly for his *Original Communications*.

#### PHRENOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF BURKE.

"Two principles in human nature reign,  
Passions to urge, and reason to restrain."

AN article has been current in most of the newspapers in this country, which is calculated to mislead the public respecting the phrenological development of Burke the murderer. It asserts that the disciples of Spurzheim, on examining the head of this monster, found to their confusion that the organ of Destructiveness was small, and that of Benevolence large.

This is not true. The last number of the Phrenological Journal contains a minute account of the admeasurement of this cranium, and the results are stated with an impartiality which forms a strong contrast with the prejudice which first prompted the newspaper paragraph alluded to.

It is unnecessary to copy here the entire minutes of the examination. Suffice it to say that the organs named were both large—"Benevolence, full," "Destructiveness, very large." It seems that Burke in his schoolboy days was an apt scholar, and not remarked for vicious propensities. When he first went to Edinburgh he "lodged in one of those haunts of wretchedness and vice quaintly entitled the *BEGGAR'S HOTELS*." Bad company led him on from one degree of crime to another, till at last penury and temptation assailed him together, and found him an easy prey.

Supposing that the organs above mentioned were equally large, so as to neutralise each other, the circumstances mentioned would be sufficient to turn the scale in a person who had few if any moral principles early implanted in his mind: when

therefore Destructiveness got the control, and temptation increased, and success urged him on, it is not at all *confounding* to the Phrenologists that he should have terminated his career on the scaffold.

We pretend not to believe in all the doctrines of Gall and Spurzheim, but, in justice to the science, an erroneous statement of so notorious a case ought not to pass uncorrected.

*Smallpox*.—A vessel arrived in this port from London, on Saturday last, on board of which a young gentleman died during the voyage, of smallpox. No other person on board has broken out as yet, but as this case may be productive of others, our citizens should, if unprotected, be thoroughly vaccinated without delay.

*University of Maryland*.—Dr. John D. Wells, of this city, now Professor of Anatomy at Bowdoin College, is appointed to deliver the annual Course of Lectures on Anatomy at the University of Maryland, during the approaching winter.

The "New Theory of Life," acknowledged last week, was by *David Porter, M.D.*, of Brownsville, Penn.; and not, as was accidentally stated, by Dr. Baker.

## WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending September 24, at noon.

Date.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Date.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.
S. 17.	F.	2 yrs	unknown		M.	3 m.	infantile
18.	F.	2	lung fever		M.	11	measles
	F.	19 m.	canker		F.	17 yrs	typhous fever
	M.	31 yrs	hemorrhage		F.	2 1-2	lung fever
	F.	5 1-2	measles	22.	M.	14 1-2	atrophy
19.	F.	9 m.	bilious fever		F.	43	consumption
	F.	13	teething	23.	F.	16 m.	inflammation of the brain
	F.	2 yrs	measles		M.	3	infantile
	M.	10 m.	cholera infantum	24.	F.	56 yrs	consumption
20.	M.	38 yrs	consumption		F.	27	unknown
	M.	15 m.	lung fever		M.	65	cancer on the heart
	F.	4	cholera infantum		F.	9 m.	unknown
	F.	11	do. do.		M.	48 yrs	scrofula
	F.	5 yrs	dropsy in the head		M.	9 m.	unknown
21.	M.	34	consumption		M.	3 yrs	measles
	M.	6 m.	infantile				

Males, 14—females, 7. Total, 21.



## ADVERTISEMENTS.

LEECHES, CHIRAYITA HERB,  
&c.

**E**BENEZER WIGHT, 46 Milk Street, has made such arrangements as will enable him to be constantly supplied with the genuine *Medicinal Leech*. He has now on hand some of very large size, and in prime order.

Just received, by late arrivals, a few pounds of *Chirayita Herb*,—Concentrated Compound *Decoction of Sarsaparilla*,—Laurel Water,—Silver Wire Tooth Brushes, from the manufactory of James Prout, of London.

Also, from the manufactory of Shepherd, of London, the following variety of *Medicated Lozenges*, viz.:—Coltsfoot—Rhubarb—Soda—Tolu—Heartburn—Paregoric—Magnesia—Steel—Camomile—Nitro—Cayenne—Opium—Fruit—Ginger—Anniseed—Ipecacuanha—Lemon—Rose—Peppermint and Sulphur.

\*\*\* Strict personal attention paid to Physicians' prescriptions, and family medicines. Oct. 6. eop.

## MORBID ANATOMY.

**C**ARTER & HENDEE have just received,—The *Morbid Anatomy of the Stomach, Bowels and Liver*; illustrated by a Series of Plates from Drawings after Nature, with explanatory letter press, and a Summary of the Symptoms of the Acute and Chronic Affections of the above-named Organs. By JOHN ARMSTRONG, M.D.

The above work will be completed in six numbers, at \$6.00 each. Three numbers are already published. Subscriptions received by C. & H.

Oct. 6.

2am3m

## CONSOLIDATED COPAIVA.

**C**OPAIVA may be given in this form without the least inconvenience. Neither communicating taste, nor imparting odor to the breath, it is also retained without the least disquietude or uneasiness to the stomach; and I am informed by Dr. Rosseau, that in large doses it does not purge."—*Phil. Journal of Med. Sciences*.

See an article in this Journal, Aug. 18th.

## OIL OF BLACK PEPPER.

This is a much more active preparation of Piperine. One drop is fully equal to

six grains of the latter. It is a valuable adjunct to Quinine. One or two drops, added to six grains, will greatly increase the efficacy of that medicine.

For sale by NATHAN JARVIS, 185 Washington Street, where Physicians will find medicines at as reasonable terms as at any place in Boston.

Aug. 25.

eoptf.

## MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

**T**HE subscribers continue to receive and instruct Medical Pupils upon the terms formerly announced.

The Pupils are admitted to the medical and surgical Practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and receive private instruction from the subscribers.

JAMES JACKSON,

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For terms, apply to Dr. Channing, Tremont street, opposite Tremont House.

**C**ARTER & HENDEE have just published,—The *Constitution of Man*, considered in Relation to External Objects. By GEORGE COMBE.

From the Preface to the American edition.

"Mr. Combe's work should be placed with those, of which so many within a few years have appeared, which are devoted to the all-absorbing topic of Education. It treats of moral, intellectual, and physical education. This is not formally done under so many distinct heads. But the whole course of reasoning of the author, and the whole array of all his illustrations, have it always obviously in view to show how the highest cultivation of each of these may be most surely brought about.

"The publishers have printed this edition from a belief that there is much in the work to interest the community.

"It has a novelty to reward the general inquirer, and it presents the well known under novel aspects. There is one class amongst us who may study it with much advantage. Scholars are referred to, a class here too small to form a distinct order with habits of their own, and who insensibly fall into those which, although not mischievous, to the multitude on the score of health, too often make ill health the portion of the sedentary student, and bring upon him premature decay.—To all classes it is recommended, and the various learning and acuteness of the author well fit him to write a book which addresses its instructions to the whole community." Sept. 8.

Published weekly, by JOHN COTTON, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year. The postage for this is the same as for other newspapers.